



WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method for preparing for intraductal retrieval of fluid, cells and/or other material from a breast duct of a patient, comprising:

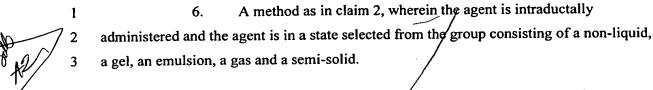
administering an agent to the patient that increases retrievable fluid from a

breast duct.

- 2. A method as in claim 1, wherein administering is accomplished by a mode selected from the group consisting of administering the agent intraductally, administering the agent systemically, and administering the agent topically.
- 3. A method as in claim 2, wherein the agent is administered intraductally to a breast duct, and the agent is selected from the group consisting of saline, phosphate buffered saline (PBS), an isotonic solution, a hypotonic solution, a buffered solution, a solution having a pH range of human tissue, blood or sera, a solution having a slightly acid pH, a solution having a slightly basic pH, and a nonabsorbable biocompatable solution.
- 4. A method as in claim 2, wherein the agent is administered systemically and comprises an agent selected from the group consisting of a hormone, oxytocin, prolactin, a breast duct secretion inducing factor, a natural herb or extract from a natural herb, silymarin, a growth factor, a vitamin, a protein, a muscle relaxant, and a small organic molecule.
- 5. A/method as in claim 2, wherein the agent is administered intraductally to a breast duct, and the agent is selected from the group consisting of a protein, a colloid, a/sugar, a polymer, mannitol, sorbitol, glucose, glycerol, sucrose, raffinose, fructose, lactulose, sodium chloride, polyethyleneglycol (PEG), maltodextrin, dextran (e.g. dextran 70), hydroxyethyl starch, fluid gelatin, a synthetic colloid, an antibody, a binding protein, albumin, a hormone, a breast duct secretion inducing factor, a natural herb or extract from a natural herb, silymarin, a surfactant, a growth factor, oxytocin, prolactin, a small organic molecule, a muscle relaxant, a ductal orifice dilator, and an agent that increases fluid secretion from a breast duct epithelium.







- 7. A method as in claim 2, wherein the agent is intraductally administered agent and the agent comprises a carbonated fluid comprising super oxygenated fluid that is colder than room temperature before intraductal administration.
- 8. A method as in claim 1, further comprising collecting a portion of the increased breast duct fluid from a breast duct.
 - 9. A method as in claim 8, wherein collecting comprises accessing a breast duct with a device and withdrawing a portion of the increased ductal fluid into the device.
 - 10. A method as in claim 8, further comprising analyzing one or more of cells, fluid or other material in the breast duct after the retrievable fluid has been increased and a portion of it has been collected.
 - 11. A method as in claim 10, wherein the step of analyzing comprises identifying a marker of a breast condition.
 - 12. A method of collecting ductal fluid from a breast duct having artificially increased retrievable ductal fluid comprising accessing a breast duct with a device and withdrawing a portion of the ductal fluid into the device.
 - 13. A method as in claim 12, wherein withdrawn ductal fluid comprises a plurality of ductal epithelial cells.
- 1 14. A method for increasing a retrievable cell amount in a breast duct 2 comprising inducing cell sloughing within the duct by applying vibration to the duct.
 - 15. A method as in claim 1 or claim 12 further comprising increasing a retrievable cell amount in a breast duct comprising inducing cell sloughing within the duct by applying vibration to the duct.

